

THE PHILIPPINES

spell are never approached in the Philippines. The higfc temperature ever recorded in Manila was 103.5° F-> and this was in May, 1878\$ again in May, 1912, and in April and May, 1915, the mercury shot past the 100° F. mark. But these records were so exceptional as to draw newspaper com- ment.

The Philippine Islands are entirely within the tropic zone. Nevertheless, in the lowlands the climate is merely mildly tropical; and in the higher altitudes in the mountains the air is cool and bracing. Manila, chiefly on account of its ideal situation, has an equable climate. The mean average daily temperature of Manila is 79.9° F. Rarely does the thermometer go below 60° F., but on the other hand just as rarely does it pass the 100° F. mark. Invariably the nights are sufficiently cool for refreshing sleep. The land around Lake Lanao and the uplands of Bukidnon, in Mindanao, and the high plateaus in Northern Luzon represent types of agreeable mountain climates of the Philippines. Yet, of course, snow is unknown, and frost and ice occur only on the highest mountain peaks. Broadly—and truthfully—speaking, the climate of the Philippines is the most healthful and comfortable of any portion of the tropics inhabited by man.

The year is popularly divided into three seasons. There is the hot season, which begins about the fifteenth of March and lasts until about the middle of June, when the rainy season starts, to be followed about the first of October by the cool season of five months⁵ duration. April and May are the hottest, and August and September the most

humid months.
Even then the heat is never extreme and
sunstroke is un-
known.

The rainfall is heavy. In certain regions it
amounts to as
much as two hundred and fifty inches annually.
The world
record for a twenty-four-hour rainfall is forty-six
inches, and
occurred on July 14-15, 1911, at Baguio, the
mountain resort
in the Philippines.